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To: County Superintendents  
District Superintendents  
Charter School Principals

From: William L. Padia, Director  
Policy and Evaluation Division

**Subject: 2001 Base Academic Performance Index (API)**

**Ref. No.: PED-EPIC-01-12**

On September 5, 2001, the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted the 2001 Base API, which represents the first major change in the API since its inception in 1999. The 2001 Base API will incorporate results from the California Standards Test in English Language-Arts (CST ELA) **for all grades tested**. It will **not** include results from any of the other California Standards Tests.

The Policy and Evaluation Division has prepared a document that summarizes the major features of the 2001 Base API as adopted by the SBE. It is entitled: "The 2001 Base Academic Performance Index (API): Integrating the California Standards Test for English-Language Arts into the API." The document is available through the Internet **only** at <[www.cde.ca.gov/psaa/api](http://www.cde.ca.gov/psaa/api)>.

The methodology for computing the Base API retains the major features of the current API system, including the scale of 200 to 1000 and the performance target of 800. Growth targets for 2001-2002 will be computed in exactly the same manner as those for 2000-2001, i.e., 5% of the distance to the performance target of 800.

As you are probably aware, API reporting is done in cycles, with the base report coming in January of each year and the corresponding growth report in the following fall. The public release of the 2001 Base API Report is now scheduled for January 15, 2002. The release of the 2001-2002 Growth API Report will occur in the fall of 2002, with APIs computed in the exact same manner and the exact same indicators as the 2001 Base API.

### ***The Scale Calibration Factor***

The 2001 Base API will include the first use of a Scale Calibration Factor (SCF), which will be used to ensure that the statewide **average** Growth API equals the same year's Base API. This will eliminate the fluctuation of the statewide average API

simply because of the incorporation of new components. SCFs will be computed separately by school type (elementary, middle, and high school).

We anticipate that for the 2001 Base API the value of all three SCFs will be small. The exact value of the SCFs will not be known until the generation of the final 2000-2001 Growth API file in December 2001 and the 2001 Base API file in January 2002.

**This does not mean that every school's 2001 Base API will be the same as its 2000-2001 Growth API.** It is probable that the vast majority of schools will experience at least some minor fluctuation of values; indeed, for some schools, this fluctuation may be major. The fluctuation for an individual school will be a function of the school's performance on the Stanford-9 English Language Arts indicators compared to its performance on the CST ELA. The SCF will be applied to both the base and growth APIs and will have no effect on the computation of growth.

#### ***Inclusion of All Student Scores***

The CST ELA is a standards-based test that holds all students to specific performance levels (advanced, proficient, basic, below basic, and far below basic). The demonstration of these levels is independent of any specific learning disability accommodation. Therefore, test results from **all students** are included in the CST ELA portion of the API, regardless of any accommodation that excludes their norm-referenced results from the API. **Also, be advised that CST ELA results from any student who tests "out-of-level" will be counted as far below basic.**

#### ***Final 2001 Growth API Report***

The final 2001 Growth API Report with all of the results from districts that are correcting their data will be available in mid-December. If you have not already done so, we urge you to include a discussion of the results of the API growth report, including the percentage of schools in the district that met their API growth targets, at your next scheduled governing board meeting. The percentage of schools in the district that met targets will be included on the final 2000-2001 API Growth Report as part of the district listing.

#### ***Release of 2001 Base API Report***

As noted earlier, we plan to release the 2001 Base API Report on January 15, 2002. This report will include:

- The 2001 Base API
- The 2001 Statewide Rank
- The 2001 Similar Schools Rank
- The 2001-2002 schoolwide API Growth Target
- The 2001-2002 API Growth Targets for all numerically significant ethnic and socioeconomically disadvantaged subgroups

As per our usual practice, you will have the opportunity to view the Report for your schools via Internet prior to the public release.

### ***Public Hearing Required***

Current law [Education Code 52056(c)] requires that following the annual publication of the API and school rankings, the governing board of each school district shall discuss “the results of the annual ranking at the next regularly scheduled meeting.” Therefore, you should schedule a review of the Base 2001 API statewide and similar schools rankings at the earliest possible opportunity following our public release in January.

### ***Contacts***

If you have questions about the 2001 Base API, please contact the Educational Planning and Information Center by e-mail at <epic@cde.ca.gov> or by phone at (916-657-2273). Please note that the exact value of the SCFs will **not** be available prior to the release of the 2001 Base API Report in January.